

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, June 24, 1889, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Waverley House, Halifax, N. S. Monday, June 24th, 1889. My dear little wifie:

Your letter of Friday, June — addressed to the steamer just reached me this afternoon. They handed it to me at the office of Cunard and Company — when I went to arrange for the bulk of our baggage going by steamer to Baddeck.

I wish I could do something to show your dear Mamma how much I love her — and how sorry I am she has again been ill. I am afraid, from what Dr. Kerr told me that these attacks are serious as they are so near the region of the heart. Do not leave her until you feel you can — and do take care of yourself my dear — I am troubled and anxious about you all.

I wish you could all experience the invigorating effects of Nova Scotia air — already I begin to revive from my wilted condition and Daisy is as bright as a kitten. My mother has enjoyed her trip — and has suffered no fatigue. She was wheeled to the depot in Washington and she was wheeled to the train. Then again in Baltimore from the train to the carriage. On board the steamer she had the Captain's cabin — quite a large and airy room — and all her meals were brought to her. Sarah was as kind to her as she could be — and actually succeeded in letting her undress her and put her to bed. Dr. Kerr suggested that it would be a good thing to have some one in our household capable of nursing any one who might be sick — and that this person might be told to make it her special duty to wait upon my Mother — and make herself also otherwise generally useful. I told him I liked the idea if we could find a suitable person. He promised to look round and consult with you. Just received telegram from him “Engaged attendant for your mother, leave Thursday.” He does not say anything about having your consent — so I have just telegraphed you not to let her come unless it meets fully with your approval. I don't know

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how in all the world we are going to accommodate everybody. Don't forget however that you have a house-boat to help you out. I will have a look at the attic of Beinn Bhreagh the moment I arrive and see whether it can be utilized.

I think you better arrange with Charlie to advance three thousand five hundred dollars till the fifteenth of July when Bell Telephone extra dividend comes in. We shall certainly have to pay about two thousand for the house-boat in a few days — and seven hundred to Mr. McInnis — and you will rent money for your furnishing. I don't like to sell anything to meet these expenses if we can possibly pay them out of income. I gave Daisy five dollars to spend for herself. She has bought a dear little nannie goat-about three months old — and various articles in the shape of towels — tableclothes and etc., She carried the nannie—goat home in her arms as happy and proud as she could be.

Supper bell rings and I must stop. Called at Mrs. McLeans today. Mrs. McLean and her two unmarried daughters are in the White Mountains — and Major and Mrs. Goldsmith are here.

I did not go in as Major Goldsmith has scarletina. I had a nice long talk this afternoon with Mrs. Goldsmith by telephone. She sends her love to you. Daisy and I called yesterday on Mr. Scott Hutton at the Institution for the deaf and dumb. The school has just been closed on account of an epidemic of whooping — cough. The 3 moment I heard this I sent Daisy out to the carriage in double quick time — and hope she has taken no harm. I called also on Mr. and Mrs. Kenny. Mr. Kenny is now the conservative M. P. — representing Halifax at Ottawa. After supper we will drive to the depot and go to bed on our own sleeping car. This will avoid the necessity of getting my Mother out of bed at half-past five o'clock in the morning. Now I must stop. Love to Elsie and kind remembrance to Mr. McCurdy.

Your loving husband, Alec.